

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01942 250954Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5755

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, IR

SUBJ: BIO: ISFAHAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL AKBAR ZAD

REF: STATE 39573

1. AKBAR ZAD, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF ISFAHAN, WAS BORN IN TEHRAN IN 1924. HE RECEIVED B.A. FROM TEHRAN UNIVERSITY IN 1946 AND M.A. IN SOCIAL SCIENCE FROM AN UNNAMED U.S. UNIVERSITY IN 1954, WITH SPECIALIZATION IN LAND REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT. HE SERVED AS DEVELOPMENT EXPERT IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN IRAN AND AMERICA AND WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FROM 1951 UNTIL 1959 WHEN HE BECAME MAYOR OF KERMANSHAH. FROM 1962 TO 1964 HE WAS SENIOR EXPERT IN DEVELOPMENT FOR FORD FOUNDATION AFTER WHICH HE BECAME UNDERSECRETARY OF TEHRAN MUNICIPALITY. HE HAS HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS RELATED TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, INCLUDING A TERM AS POLITICAL CONSULTANT. ZAD WAS PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY FOR THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR JUST PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF ISFAHAN ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO. HE HAS PUBLISHED PAPERS ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND LAND REFORMS. ZAD, WHO IS MARRIED BUT APPARENTLY HAS NO CHILDREN, SPEAKS FRENCH, ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

2. PERSONAL DATA: DESPITE HIS AMERICAN GRADUATE TRAINING AND HIS PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICANS, ZAD HAS NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY CLOSE OR HELPFUL TO EMBASSY OR AMCONSULATE ISFAHAN, HE REPORTEDLY WORKED FOR SAVAK IN THE PAST, PERHAPS DURING HIS EARLIER PERIOD WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL, ZAD HAS NOT

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BEEN A STRONG ADMINISTRATOR. HE REFERS MOST ISSUES, AND

ALL IMPORTANT ONES, TO HIS MINISTRY IN TEHRAN, DESPITE GOI'S
ANNOUNCED DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM. KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS
BELIEVE ZAD IS LIKELY TO BE REPLACED IN NEXT ROUND OF
GOVERNMENTAL SHIFTS WHICH MAY OCCUR
AROUND IRANIAN NEW YEAR,
MARCH 21.

3. CORRECT SPELLING OF HIS NAME IS AKBAR (GIVEN NAME) ZAD
(FAMILY NAME). ERROR IN OUR LIST OF RANKING OFFICIALS
(75 A-173) AROSE FROM MISSPELLING IN GOI OFFICIAL LISTING.

4. ABOVE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH AMCONSUL ISFAHAN. IF
ADDITIONAL DATA IS UNCOVERED DURING PREPARATION FOR VICE
PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT, EMBASSY WILL FORWARD.
MIKLOS

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